

DR.
STRANGE

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DOCTOR STRANGE

“FOUR WORLDS TO CONQUER!”



Once he was a man like most *others*— a worldly man, seduced and jaded by *material* things. But then he discovered the *separate* reality, where *sorcery* and *men's souls* shaped the forces that shape our *lives*. In that instant, he was *born again*, to become a man like no other—a man who left us *behind*, as he strove to stand against the unseen subtle perils hovering *thick* and *black* around our fragile existence...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **Dr. STRANGE** MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!™

THE SCREAMING'S
OVER. LECTRA, PHAYDRA--
TEMPUS-- THEY'RE
ALL DEAD.

OR PERHAPS
JUST THRUST INTO
ANOTHER EXISTENCE...
ONE IN WHICH THEY'LL
BETTER FIT.

BUT NOW ANOTHER
PROBLEM AWAITS ME--
THAT OF LEAVING THIS
MAD DIMENSION
AND FINDING CLEA!

MIND TRIP!

THIS STORY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS THE
DOCTOR STRANGE ANNUAL NOW ON SALE.

MARY WOLFMAN
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LETTERER
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COLORIST

CLEA'S GONE...VANISHED FROM THE MUSEUM WHERE WE FOUGHT XANDER.*

WHILE I STILL FLOAT THROUGH THE COLD SPACE WHERE ONCE PHASEWORLD EXISTED--

--SEARCHING FOR THE PROPER CO-ORDINATES TO RE-ENTER EARTH'S DIMENSION.

*LAST ISH.
--MARV!

--AND THE LOSS OF THOSE POWERS SHOULD HAVE LEFT ME TROUBLED. BUT I'M NOT. I'M STILL AS CALM...AS PEACEFUL WITH MYSELF AS I HAD BEEN.

SPACE-DRAGON!

DEMONS OF DENAK!
WHAT?!

ZAT!

UNNGHHH! COULDN'T MOVE FROM THE PATH OF HIS EYE-BLASTS IN TIME.

BUT--

WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE IS THIS?

WHY DOES IT ATTACK ME WITHOUT QUARTER?

NO MATTER.
IF I MUST ANSWER FORCE WITH FORCE TO STOP IT--SO BE IT!

NO GOOD!
MY CONJURATIONS FAIL IN THEIR TASK!

ODD...I FEEL NO DIFFERENT NOW THAT I'M NO LONGER SORCERER SUPREME. THE TITLE AND POWERS WHICH THE ANCIENT ONE GRANTED ME SHOULD HAVE MADE ME MORE COMPLETE--

I--

BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH!

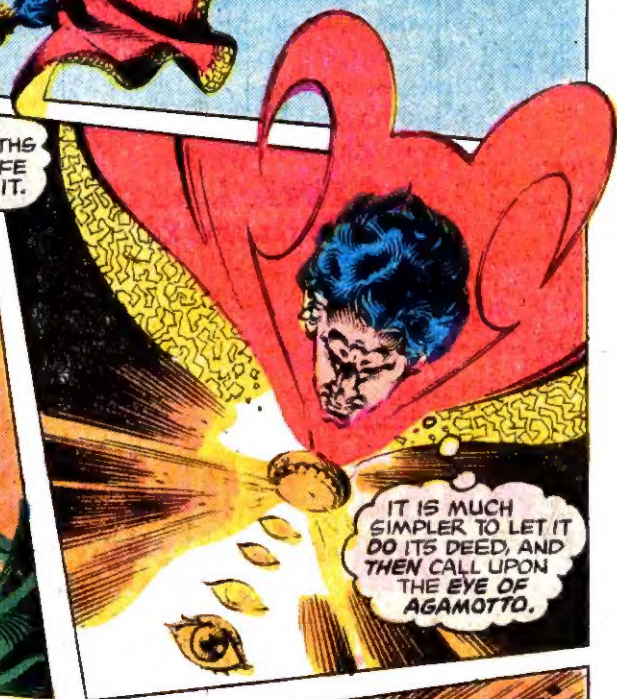


THAT THING'S
SUCKING ME INTO
IT. I-I CAN'T BREAK
FREE--THE BEAST'S
TOO POWERFUL!

YET, THERE'S NO
REASON I SHOULD
STRUGGLE. THE END
RESULT OF MY
ATTACKS WOULD
EVENTUALLY BE
ITS DEATH...



...AND I'VE
SWORN ON TWO OATHS
NEVER TO TAKE LIFE
BUT TO PROTECT IT.



IT IS MUCH
SIMPLER TO LET IT
DO ITS DEED, AND
THEN CALL UPON
THE EYE OF
AGAMOTTO.



I TRAVELLED
THROUGH IT TO GET
HERE, AND I CAN
LEAVE THE SAME
WAY.

WITHOUT HARM
TO ANY MAN OR
BEAST!

AND A WORLD BOILING
WITH PAIN AND GRIEF
FADES OFF INTO THE
DISTANCE...

... WHILE ANOTHER BUSTLING
WORLD APPEARS ON THE
HORIZON...

CLEA IS HERE, YET ALL MY
PSYCHIC SEARCHINGS HAVE
PROVEN FRUITLESS!

I CAN NOT
GET IN TOUCH
WITH HER
MIND.

IF SHE IS
NOT DEAD, IF
SHE HAS NOT
BEEN PLACED
BEHIND SOME
PSYCHIC SHIELD
--ONE WHICH
PREVENTS OUR
MINDS FROM
LINKING...

... THEN I AM AT
A LOSS FOR A
SOLUTION TO HER
DISAPPEARANCE.

PERHAPS IT IS
TIME TO RETURN
HOME AND CONTEMPLATE.
THERE ARE MYSTERIES
HERE WHICH ARE TOO
DEEP TO PROBE WITH-
OUT EXTENSIVE
THOUGHT.

HAS CLEA YET
RETURNED,
FAITHFUL
WONG?

THE MISTRESS
HAS NOT BEEN
SEEN, MASTER.

SO, THE QUESTIONS GROW
MORE COMPLEX. AND THE
ANSWERS BECOME MORE
AND MORE VAGUE.

MEANTIME, DOWNTOWN...

WATCH OUT
FOR HER,
CONROY. SHE'S
GOT SOME
STRANGE
POWER--
USED IT TO
BREAK OUTTA
JAIL.

BACK AWAY--
ALL OF YOU!

ONE STEP
FORWARD AND
I WON'T BE
RESPONSIBLE
FOR WHAT
HAPPENS.

THEN DON'T ARGUE
WITH US, LADY. JUST
COME QUIETLY.



YOU **STILL** HOUND ME? YOU **STILL** PURSUE ME FOR NO REASON?

I CAN TAKE THIS NO MORE!

BY THE VIPERS OF VALTORR! YOU WILL BE STOPPED!



WHAT? SHE TURNED OUR GUNS INTO SNAKES!

WH-WHAT IS SHE? WHAT?



EVEN I DON'T TRULY KNOW WHO I AM, BUT YOU'VE TRIED TO TAKE ME AS YOUR CAPTIVE. YOU PUT ME IN YOUR PRISONS. AND I MUST NOT BE CONFINED!

SO I USED MY POWER... POWER--WHICH FOR SOME REASON I ALONE HAVE--

--WHILE YOU FOOLS ARE THE WEAK ONES!



YOU WISHED TO MAKE ME SUBSERVIENT TO YOU.

BUT YOU CAN NOT SUCCEED-- NOT WHILE I CAN MAKE YOU BOW TO ME.



I--I CAN'T H-HELP MYSELF... CAN'T F-FIGHT HER...

NOW, FOOLS! BOW TO ME! BOW TO YOUR MISTRESS!

SHE'S A WITCH!

B-BEING FORCED TO BOW...TO B-BEG...

A WITCH? PERHAPS I AM.
AND THOUGH I HAVE NO
MEMORY OF WHAT
I ONCE WAS--

--I-I COULD BE A
WITCH. I COULD BE
A SORCERESS...
AND THAT WOULD
EXPLAIN MY
POWERS.

BUT--WHY DO
I HAVE NO
MEMORIES OF
FIGHTING THESE
PEOPLE. WHY DOES
THIS ALL SEEM SO
STRANGE TO ME--?

WHY CAN'T I SIMPLY
ERADICATE THESE
FOOLS WHO HOUND
ME?

FOOLS? THAT WORD
STICKS IN
MY THROAT.
WHY? WHY
DOES IT SEEM
SO ALIEN FOR
ME TO SAY
THAT?

I-I-UNHHH...

NO! I MUSTN'T
BE SWAYED BY
WHATEVER I
ONCE WAS.

I MUST GET
RID OF THESE...
THESE HUMANS
WHO COME AT
ME.

AND THEN...
THEN I CAN
THINK FREELY.
THEN I CAN
SEARCH FOR
WHAT I WAS
AND WHO
I AM.

BUT NOW--
LET THE WINDS
HOWL! LET MY
POWER BE THE
POWER!

WH-WHAT'S
SHE DOIN'?

BACK,
YOU
RABBLE--
BACK!

I--I DON'T
KNOW... BUT
LET'S RUSH
HER. SHE
CAN'T TAKE
US ALL ON!

NO! SHE'S
CREATED A
HURRICANE!

BUT...
WHAT'S THIS?
YOU STILL
STEP
FORWARD?

HAVE YOU
NO FEAR OF
MY POWER?



WH-WHAT'S SHE DOING?

I-I DON'T KNOW...BUT SHE'S UP TO SOMETHING.

THEN WITNESS ITS FULL EXTENT!

AND GOD HELP US FOR NOT RUNNING WHEN WE COULD!



OH, NO-- NO! LOOK!

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING!



LET THE VERMIN CRAWL THE EARTH!

OH, NO! NOOO!

YAGGHHH!!

PLEASE... LET ME BE... FREE MEEEE!!!

C~ CAN'T BREATHE... IT'S CRUSHING ME!

MEANTIME, OFF TO THE SIDE,
A YOUNG GIRL WATCHES, BOTH
IN HORROR AND IN FEARFUL
ANTICIPATION...

IT'S HER...
THE ONE HE
TOLD ME
ABOUT.

BUT... DARE
I APPROACH
HER? DARE I
TELL HER WHAT
HE TOLD
ME TO?

L-LORD, I'M
FRIGHTENED... SO
VERY FRIGHTENED.
I-I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.

IT'S HER!

I'VE FOUND
CLEA AT LAST!

MASTER,
YOU **MUST** HAVE
SOMETHING
TO EAT.

NO,
WONG. I
CAN'T--
NOT
NOW.

I'VE FINALLY
TRACED CLEA, AND WHAT
I ALWAYS FEARED WOULD
HAPPEN--HAS!

OUR MYSTIC
POWERS ARE A
SACRED POSSESSION.
THEY MUST **NEVER** BE
USED TO HARM
ANY MORTAL.

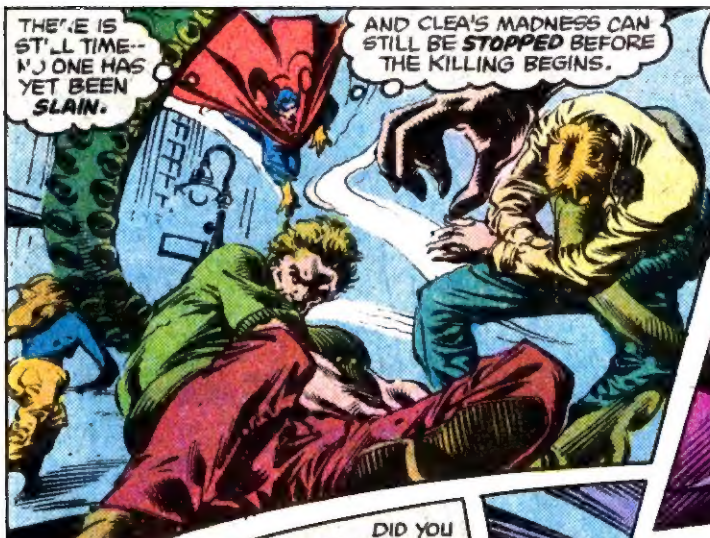
AND, IN
ALL THIS TIME,
I'VE TRIED TO **KEEP**
THE TRUTH OF OUR
POWERS AS **SECRET** AS POS-
SIBLE. ONLY A VERY FEW KNOW
WHO WE ARE, AND FEWER STILL
KNOW THE **EXTENT** OF WHAT
WE CAN DO.

BUT NOW, ALL MY YEARS
OF SECRECY HAVE BEEN
FOR NAUGHT. CLEA HAS
OPENLY DISPLAYED HER
POWERS TO THE MASSES.
AND MORE--SHE'S ABUSED
THEM.

SHE
MUST BE
STOPPED!

WHILE...

AARRGGHHHH



THERE IS
STILL TIME--
NO ONE HAS
YET BEEN
SLAIN.

AND CLEA'S MADNESS CAN
STILL BE STOPPED BEFORE
THE KILLING BEGINS.



YOU! WHY DO I
KNOW YOUR FACE?
WHY DOES
YOUR IMAGE
HAUNT ME?



DID YOU
ATTACK ME
BEFORE? IS THAT
WHY YOU MOVE TO
STOP ME NOW?

I WON'T
ALLOW YOU
TO STOP ME.
I WON'T!

BY THE
MYSTIC MAZE
OF MADNESS!
SHE MOVES
QUICKLY--



--AS
BEFITS ONE I
PERSONALLY
TUTORED!

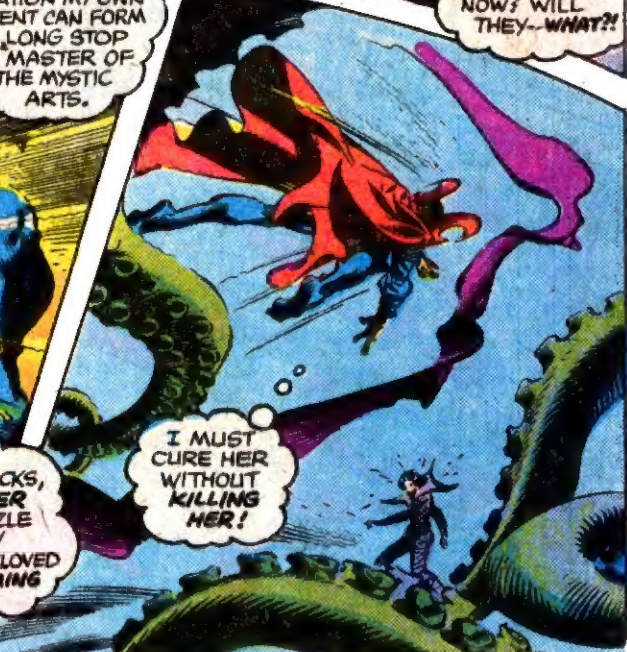
WILL MY OWN
TEACHINGS
GO AGAINST ME
NOW? WILL
THEY--WHAT?!



SHE
SENDS HER
CREATURES
AT ME--
CONJURATIONS
FROM HER
WARPED
CONSCIOUS-
NESS.

BUT NO
CREATION MY OWN
STUDENT CAN FORM
WILL LONG STOP
THE MASTER OF
THE MYSTIC
ARTS.

THOUGH I
BLUNT HER ATTACKS,
I HAVE A GREATER
PROBLEM TO PUZZLE
OUT--NAMESLY
STOPPING MY BELOVED
WITHOUT HARMING
HER--



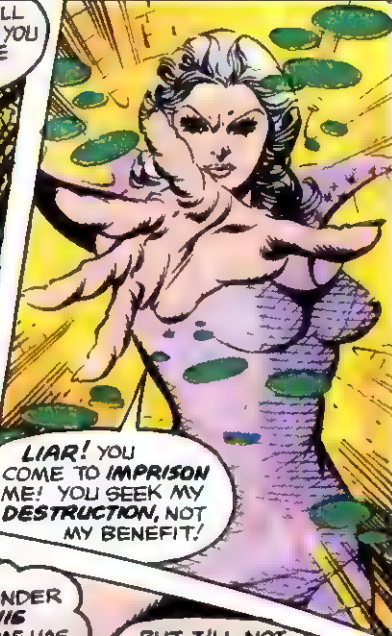
I MUST
CURE HER
WITHOUT
KILLING
HER!



PUT DOWN YOUR HANDS,
CLEA. I COME IN **PEACE**.



FOR YOUR OWN WELL
BEING, I **BESEECH** YOU
NOT TO MAKE ME
BATTLE YOU.



LIAR! YOU
COME TO **IMPRISON**
ME! YOU SEEK MY
DESTRUCTION, NOT
MY **BENEFIT!**

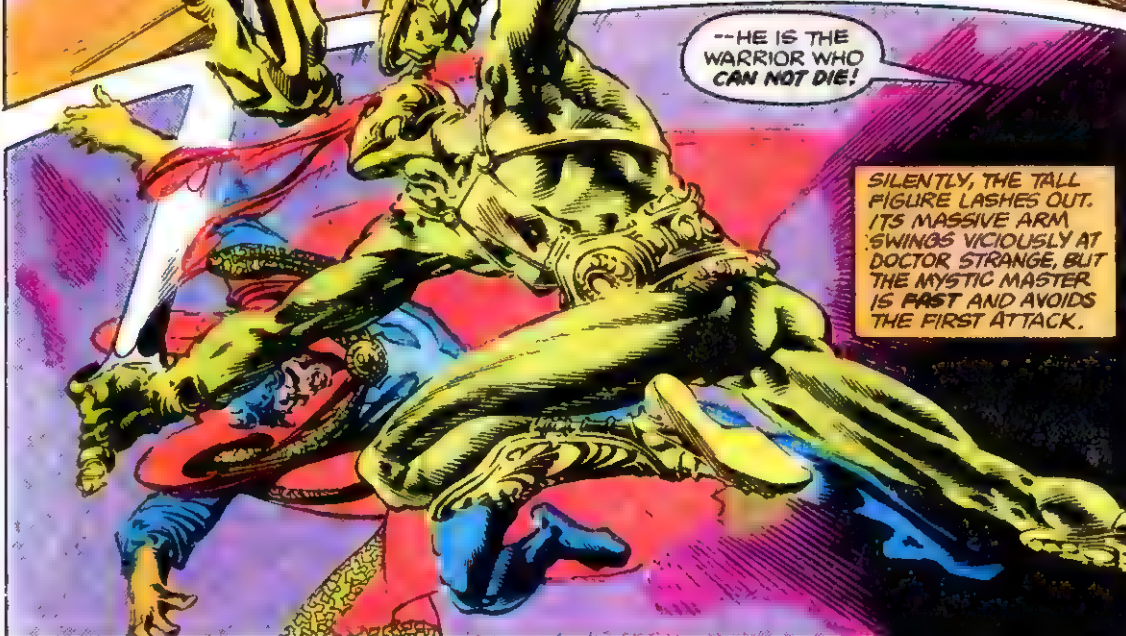


NO GOOD.
WHATEVER **XANDER**
DID TO HER, **HIS**
HATRED FOR ME HAS
BECOME **HERS**.



BUT I'LL NOT
BOW NOR BEND TO
ANY MAN, AND I'LL
FIGHT TO THE **DEATH**
AGAINST ANY **FOE!**

OBSERVE MY
CHAMPION, VILLAIN.
BROUGHT HERE FROM
BEYOND THE **VEILS**
OF **REALITY--**



--HE IS THE
WARRIOR WHO
CAN NOT **DIE!**

SILENTLY, THE TALL
FIGURE LASHES OUT.
ITS MASSIVE ARM
SWINGS VICIOUSLY AT
DOCTOR STRANGE, BUT
THE MYSTIC MASTER
IS FAST AND AVOIDS
THE FIRST ATTACK.

THE
WARRIOR'S
BLADE
RISES
AGAIN, RAYS
OF GOLDEN
SUNSHINE
SPARKLE
OFF ITS
GLEAMING
EDGE. THRUST
ONCE! TWICE!
THE BLADE
FLASHES
AGAIN AND
AGAIN!

BUT THE
SWIFTLY
CONJURED
SHIELD OF
SERAPHIM
HOLDS.

THE THING THRIVES AND
GROWS **STRONGER** WITH
EVERY THRUST AS IF ITS
STRENGTH COMES FROM
THE BATTLE...

BY THE
UNSPEAKABLE
UMAR! OF
COURSE!

IT HASN'T
ITS OWN
POWER--ITS
POWER
COMES FROM
CLEA AND
FROM THE
SERPENT
MONSTER--

IT'S
ABSORBING
ENERGY FROM
THE BYSTANDERS
--FROM THE
INNOCENTS
CAUGHT IN THIS
MADNESS!

WINDS OF THE WATOOMB
TAKE THE INNOCENTS AWAY!
HIDE THEM IN THE DEEPEST SHADOWS--
LEST EVIL HOLD SWAY!

ONLY CHANCE IS TO REMOVE THE
PEOPLE--TO SEND THEM ELSE-
WHERE WHERE THEY'LL BE SAFE
AND AWAY FROM THE CREATURE.

NOT IF IT
CANNOT GET TO ME,
AND SO EXPENDS
ITS ENERGY
USELESSLY!

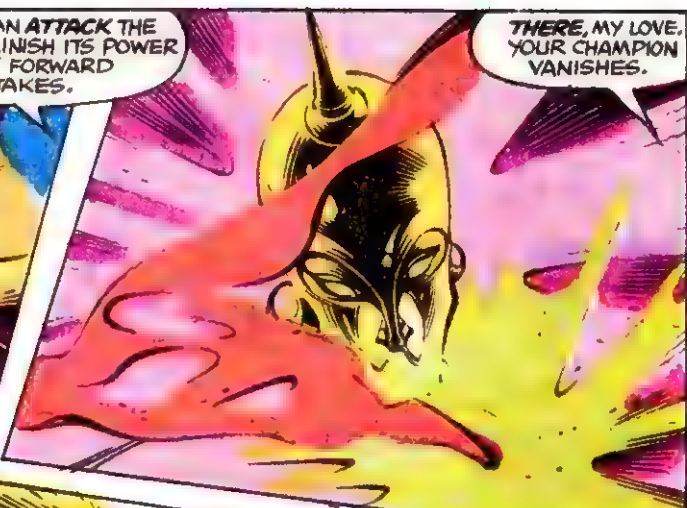
YOU
FOOL!

MY WARRIOR
STILL HAS HIS
ACCUMULATED
POWER.

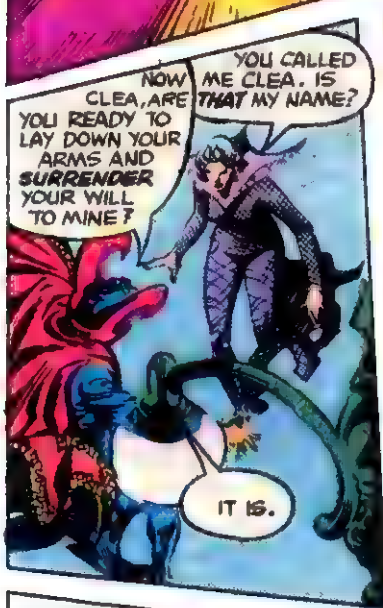
AND THAT IS
POWER ENOUGH
TO DESTROY
YOU!



AND NOT IF I CAN ATTACK THE THING AND DIMINISH ITS POWER WITH EVERY FORWARD STEP IT TAKES.



THERE, MY LOVE, YOUR CHAMPION VANISHES.



NOW CLEA, ARE YOU READY TO LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND SURRENDER YOUR WILL TO MINE?

YOU CALLED ME CLEA. IS THAT MY NAME?

IT IS.



AND YOU ARE MY DISCIPLE... AND MORE--MY LOVE!

GIVE ME YOUR HAND--



--WHILE I USE THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO TO PIERCE THE DARK CLOUDS WHICH GUARD YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS.

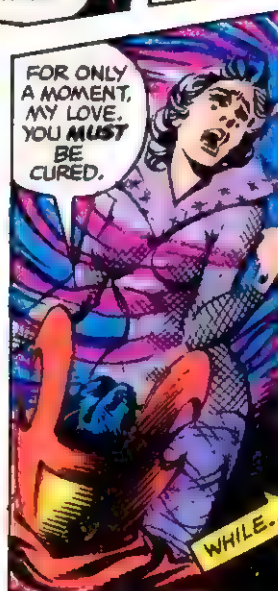


I-I SEE THE MUSEUM WHERE YOU MET XANDER. I SEE HIM CASTING A SPELL ON YOU...A DARK SPELL OF CORRUPTION.



NO! STOP IT NOW! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE!

STOP IT! STOP IT NOW!



FOR ONLY A MOMENT, MY LOVE, YOU MUST BE CURED.

WHILE...



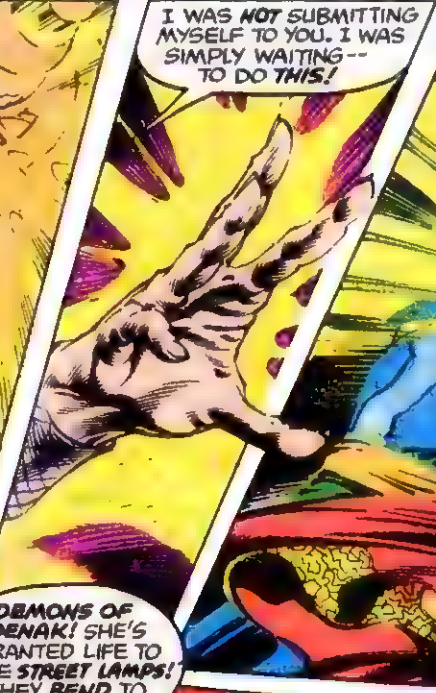
HUNH? SH-SHE WAS IN PAIN...BUT I-I FELT IT.

THEN...THEN IT'S TRUE!

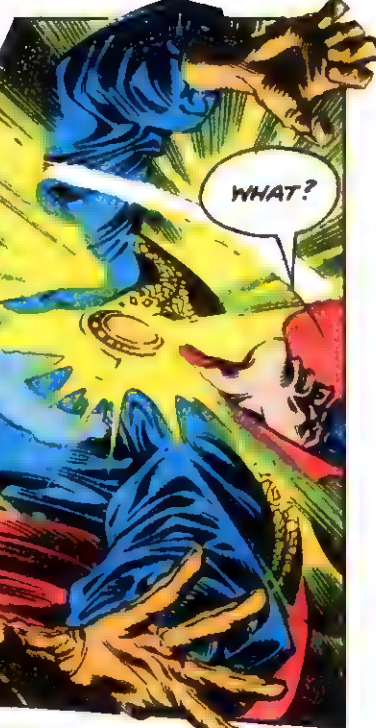
OH, MY GOD-- IT'S ALL TRUE!



YOU SEE,
YOU ARE A
FOOL. YOU
RELEASED
YOUR HOLD
ON ME
WHILE I
FEIGNED
PAIN.



I WAS **NOT** SUBMITTING
MYSELF TO YOU. I WAS
SIMPLY WAITING--
TO DO **THIS!**



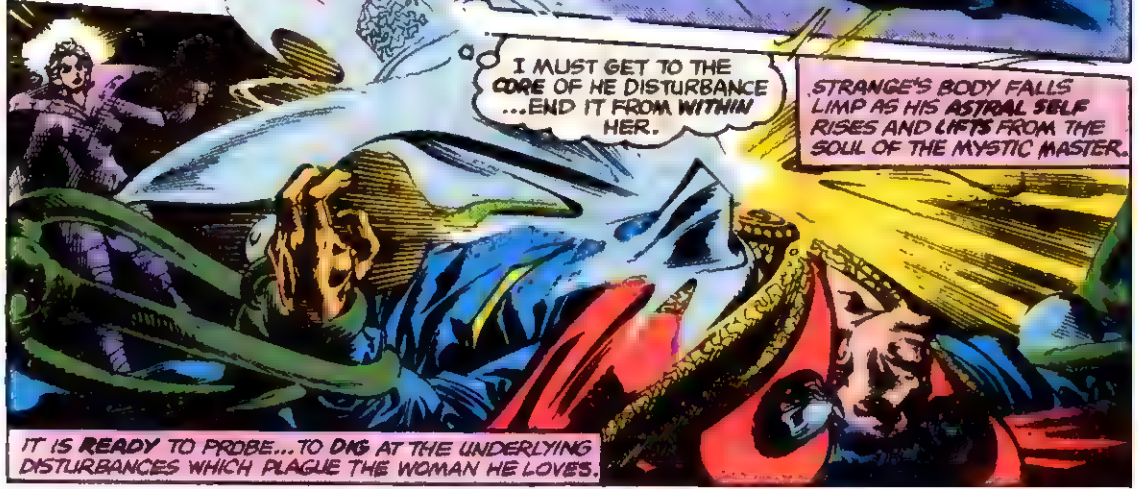
WHAT?



DEMONS OF
DENAK! SHE'S
GRANTED LIFE TO
THE STREET LAMPS!
THEY BEND TO
HER WILL.

I COULD STRUGGLE
...I COULD **FREE** MY-
SELF, BUT CLEA WILL
ONLY SEND SPELL
AFTER SPELL AT
ME.

THE
STRUGGLE
MUSTN'T
CONTINUE
IN THIS
FASHION.



I MUST GET TO THE
CORE OF THE DISTURBANCE
...END IT FROM WITHIN
HER.

STRANGE'S BODY FALLS
LIMP AS HIS **ASTRAL SELF**
RISES AND LIFTS FROM THE
SOUL OF THE MYSTIC MASTER.

IT IS READY TO PROBE...TO DIG AT THE UNDERLYING
DISTURBANCES WHICH PLAGUE THE WOMAN HE LOVES.



YOU WON'T GET THE
CHANCE TO ATTACK ME.
I WON'T ALLOW IT!

YOU HAVE
NO CHOICE, CLEA.
IF YOU BATTLE
MY ASTRAL SELF,
YOU FREE MY
TRUE FORM.



IF YOU USE YOUR POWERS TO HOLD
THAT IN PLACE, THEN I AM FREE--

-- TO
FREEZE
YOU IN A
MOMENT OF
TIME.



THERE! HER
THOUGHT-WAVE ELECTRO-
PATTERN--AND IT'S BECOME
WILD--NO SIGN OF ANY
STABILITY.

FREE TO ENTER
YOUR BRAIN'S CORTEX
AND ROOT OUT THE
REASONS FOR YOUR
MADNESS.

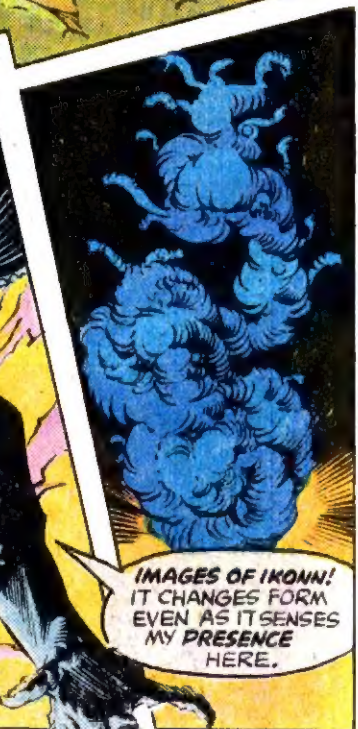
THE CAUSE OF THAT
STILL LIES DEEPER IN
HER UNCONSCIOUSNESS, FOR
THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO
SHOWED ME THE TRUE
DISTURBANCE...



...AND THAT
BLACK, DARKLY
GLOWING MASS
IS IT!



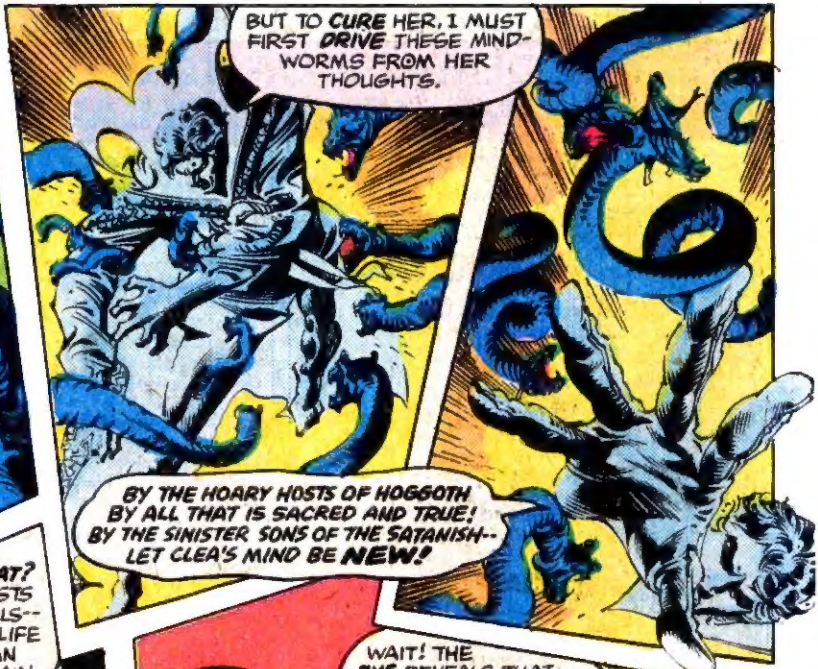
BUT--



IMAGES OF IKONN!
IT CHANGES FORM
EVEN AS IT SENSES
MY PRESENCE
HERE.



YES, THIS IS DEFINITELY THE CENTER OF CLEA'S MADNESS.

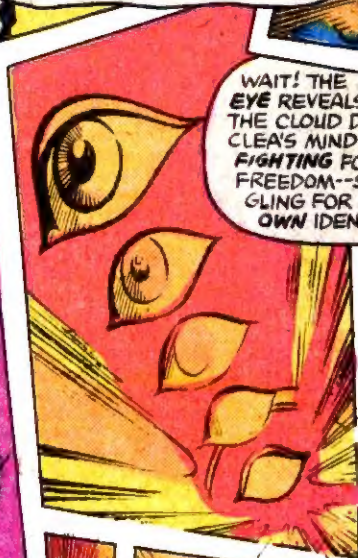


BUT TO CURE HER, I MUST FIRST DRIVE THESE MIND-WORMS FROM HER THOUGHTS.

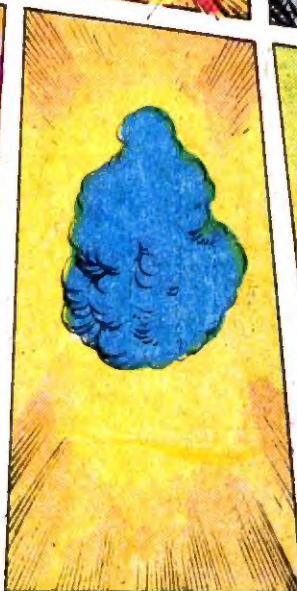
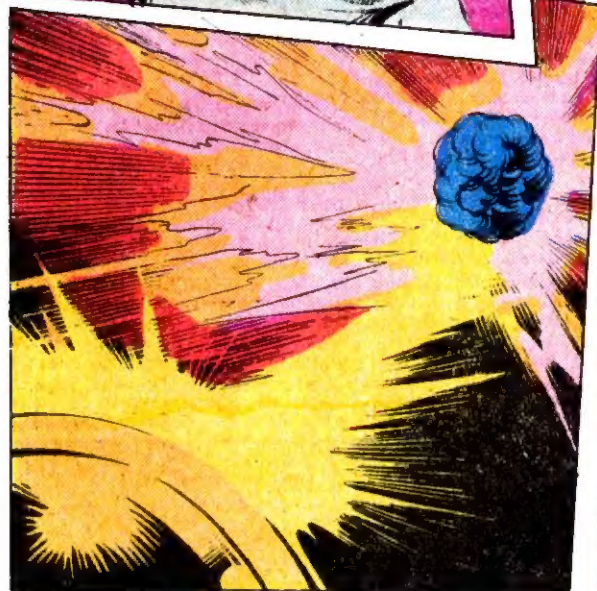
BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGSOOTH
BY ALL THAT IS SACRED AND TRUE!
BY THE SINISTER SONS OF THE SATANISH--
LET CLEA'S MIND BE **NEW!**



WHAT?
IT RESISTS MY SPELLS--
FIGHTING FOR A LIFE
OF ITS OWN? YET, I CAN
NOT PERMIT CLEA TO REMAIN
IN THIS MADNESS.

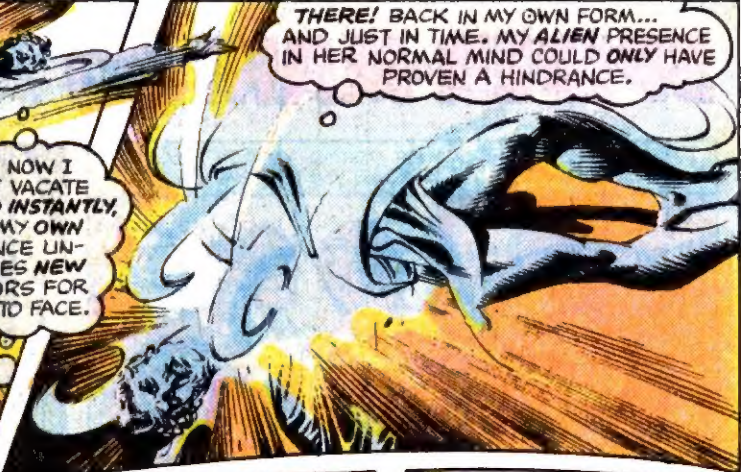


WAIT! THE
EYE REVEALS THAT
THE CLOUD DISPERSES--
CLEA'S MIND MUST BE
FIGHTING FOR ITS
FREEDOM--STRUG-
GLING FOR IT'S
OWN IDENTITY.





SHE'S **FREE**
AGAIN... FREE TO
BE HERSELF.



BUT NOW I
MUST VACATE
HE MIND **INSTANTLY**,
LEST MY OWN
PRESENCE UN-
LEASHES NEW
TERRORS FOR
HER TO FACE.

THERE! BACK IN MY OWN FORM...
AND JUST IN TIME. MY **ALIEN** PRESENCE
IN HER NORMAL MIND COULD ONLY HAVE
PROVEN A HINDRANCE.



IT IS ALL
RIGHT, MY LOVE.

STEPHEN...
I-I CAN'T
REMEMBER
ANY-
THING.

STE--



WHICH IS PROBABLY
BEST FOR NOW, CLEA. I'LL
TELL YOU
EVERYTHING
AFTER
YOU'VE
RESTED FOR
AWHILE.



BUT NOW,
STAND BACK
WHILE I
RETURN
THE PEOPLE
TO THIS
AREA--



LET ALL BE AS
IT ONCE WAS!

--AND WIPE
CLEAN THEIR
MINDS OF THIS
EVENT.

AND NOW, CLEA,
WITH THE DANGER
OVER, WITH ALL
WELL ONCE
AGAIN--

LET'S JUST RETURN HOME.

HER PAIN HAS
EASED...AS DOES
MINE. HER MIND IS
FREE...AS IS MINE.

BUT DARE I SPEAK
WITH CLEA NOW?

STEPHEN--

YES...

THERE
IS NO NEED
FOR WORDS
NOW.



DARE I REACH OUT TO
TOUCH OUR SOULS TO-
GETHER AT THIS
MOMENT?

DARE I REVEAL TO
HER MY PRESENCE
HERE ON EARTH?!



NO.
GO NOW,
CLEA.

THERE WILL BE TIME LATER
FOR YOU TO GREET--

APALLA--QUEEN
OF THE SUN!

NEXT: FOUR WORLDS TO CONQUER!

A MARY / JIM
WOLFMAN / STARLIN
EXTRAVAGANZA!